



Junior Kindergarten Collection (S0042)

Collection Number: S0042

Collection Title: Junior Kindergarten Collection

Dates: 1962, 1964-1970

Creator: Junior Kindergarten

Abstract: This collection includes articles of incorporation, correspondence, reports, lists, and flyers relating to the founding and operation of Junior Kindergarten from 1962, and 1964-1970. Junior Kindergarten was organized in 1965 by the Junior League of St. Louis and Page-Park County YMCA (currently Bayer YMCA) to improve the school readiness of educationally disadvantaged children around St. Louis City before their entrance into a public kindergarten.

Collection Size: 0.15 cubic feet
(6 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Junior Kindergarten Collection* (S0042); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Marleah Strominger on April 14, 1971 (Accession No. SA0029).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Junior Kindergarten Collection can be found in the following collections:

Junior League of St. Louis Records, (S0628)

Processed by: Processed by Rachael Heriford, March 2023

Historical Note:

After a meeting of the St. Louis-St. Louis County White House Conference on Education in 1962, the Page-Park County YMCA and the Junior League of St. Louis began a preschool program throughout St. Louis City called Junior Kindergarten. The YMCA renovated a building that would serve as the classroom for the program. The Junior League furnished the classroom and trained volunteers for the program under the guidance of Bess Chandler from the St. Louis Board of Education. By the spring of 1965, the program officially began with 15 volunteers and 15 four-year-olds. Also, during the spring of 1965, the Junior League created a Board of Managers that oversaw the operation and funding of the schools. During the 1967 school year, the program included three-year-olds making it a two-year preschool and increased the number of classrooms, employees, and volunteers involved in Junior Kindergarten. The work achieved by the Junior League and the YMCA became the forerunner for the nationwide Head Start Program.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged alphabetically by subject matter into 7 folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The Junior Kindergarten Collection contains articles of incorporation, correspondence, reports, lists, and flyers relating to the founding and operation of Junior Kindergarten from 1962, and 1964-1970. The correspondence includes topics of interest such as the successful admittance into the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, Board Managers, and securing a grant from the Danforth Foundation. The reports, lists, and flyers include materials such as end-of-year reports, staffing lists, and advertising for a 1970 graduation event. The collection has been arranged alphabetically by subject matter except for folders 5 and 6 because the handbooks do not have content relating to the operation of Junior Kindergarten. The first folder features the articles of incorporation, followed by two folders of correspondence, and concludes with the reports, lists, and flyers folder. The last two folders are a teacher's handbook from the Council of Catholic Women and a manual written by Bessie Chandler.

Container List:

- f. 1 Articles of Incorporation, 1965
- f. 2 Correspondence, 1966-1968
- f. 3 Correspondence, 1969-1970
- f. 4 Reports, Lists, and Flyers, 1962, 1965-1970
- f. 5 Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Preschool Teacher's Handbook, n.d.
- f. 6 *A Manual of Curricular Experiences For The Pre-School Child*, 1964

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
African American students--Education	1-6

Index Terms	Folder
Bayer YMCA (Saint Louis, Mo.)	1-4
Chandler, Bessie Elizabeth	4, 6
Children--Missouri--Saint Louis--History--20th century	1-6
Danforth Foundation (Saint Louis, Mo.)	2-4
Education, Preschool--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-6
Education--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-6
Junior Kindergarten (Saint Louis, Mo.)	1-5
Junior League of St. Louis	1-4
Kindergarten--Missouri--Saint Louis--History--20th century	1-6
Saint Louis (Mo.). Board of Education	4, 6
Teachers--Training of--Missouri	1-6